

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW/NEA/INS:KUX
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
AF/E - MR. POST (INFO)
AF/P :DUMONT/NEA/PAB:MULLIGAN
EUR/WE - MR. BARBOUR

----- 031101

O 181642Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 17

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR NOVEMBER 17,
1976:

Q. MR. EAGLEBURGER YESTERDAY MET WITH ANTHONY LAKE. CAN
YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED?

A. I CANNOT GO INTO ANY DETAILS OF THEIR CONVERSATION.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DO NOT KNOW; AND, SECONDLY, I DO
NOT THINK WE ARE GOING TO PROVIDE A DAILY BRIEFING ON WHAT
MR. LAKE AND MR. EAGLEBURGER ARE TALKING ABOUT. MR. LAKE
AND MR. EAGLEBURGER WILL BE MEETING AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. IS MR. LAKE GOING TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN THIS
BUILDING, AND WHEN?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING--TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK.

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Q. THEY MEET AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON?

A. YES.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE OR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT
THE TRANSITION MEANS IN A PRACTICAL WAY?

A. I CANNOT SPECIFICALLY TODAY, NO. I DO NOT KNOW
WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. I CAN ASSUME--I THINK
IT IS FAIRLY SELF-EVIDENT, WHAT THEY WILL BE TALKING
ABOUT; BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF WHAT
MR. LAKE HAS --

Q. HOW CAN YOU ASSUME WHAT THEY'LL BE TALKING ABOUT?

A. THEY WILL BE TALKING ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. I ASSUME THAT IS WHY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ASSIGNED SOMEONE TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE TRANSITION.

Q. BUT HE DOESN'T NEED ANYBODY TO COME AND TALK ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY, ESSENTIALLY. WHAT MAKES A TRANSITION IN THOSE TERMS? IF THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO SEE MR. CARTER, I PRESUME THE SECRETARY AND MR. CARTER WILL TALK ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY. WHAT DOES THE TRANSITION MEAN?

A. YOU ARE ASSUMING THE WHOLE TRANSITION CAN TAKE PLACE IN ONE MEETING. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TRANSITIONS HERE BEFORE. THE REASON I AM HESITANT TO ANSWER: IT IS NOT FOR US TO TELL THE TRANSITION TEAM WHAT THEY SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN. WE ARE HERE TO RESPOND AND TO BE HELPFUL AND TO KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED.

Q. WELL, AREN'T THERE REALLY TWO AREAS? ONE HAS TO DO WITH ADMINISTRATION AND THE BUREAUCRACY WITH THE BUILDING AND THE OTHER HAS TO DO WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF POLICY AND THAT IN ONE MR. EAGLEBURGER IS NOT ONLY BY TITLE BUT EXPERIENCE QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS WITH MR. LAKE AND THAT'S WHAT'S BEING TAKEN UP?

A. NO. I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE IT, NO.
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Q. NO?

A. NO. THE OTHER PART OF THE ANSWER, OF COURSE, IS TRADITIONALLY, AT LEAST -- AND I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE NEW TRANSITION PEOPLE, TEAM, WILL WANT TO KEEP INFORMED AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL THE 20TH.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE SECRETARY --

Q. EXCUSE ME. WHEN DOES MR. LAKE MEET WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A. A TIME HAS NOT BEEN SET UP.

Q. YOU STILL EXPECT IT TO BE THIS WEEK?

A. I HAVE NOT CHECKED THAT SPECIFICALLY -- SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SECRETARY WAS GOING TO PLAINS ON SATURDAY.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT TYPES OF WEAPONS

MIGHT BE SOLD TO SUDAN?

Q. THE QUESTION?

A. I DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF WHAT MIGHT BE SOLD. I WILL LOOK INTO THAT. I DO KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION THAT SUDAN IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN AMMAN?

A. THE ONLY THING I HAVE ON IT IS THAT THERE WAS ONE AMERICAN TOURIST IN THE HOTEL WHO WAS INJURED. NOT SERIOUSLY I AM TOLD.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHO HE WAS?

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A. NO.

Q. THE OTHER THING IS THAT WITH REFERENCE TO THE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SADAT WITH REGARD TO THE OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLY HIM WITH ARMS, WAS THERE A COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SAYING THAT IT'S AN OBLIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE EGYPT WITH WEAPONS?

A. I JUST SAW PRESS REPORTS ON IT, AND I JUST AM NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT.

Q. WELL, DID THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO RELAY ANY INFORMATION

ON THIS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. NOT THAT I'VE BEEN INFORMED OF, NO. IT IS NOT A SUBJECT THAT HAS COME UP.

Q. WELL, CAN WE FOLLOW UP ON TWO ROUTES ON THIS: ONE, DID THE EMBASSY SEND IN ANY INFORMATION ON THIS? AND B, WHAT IS OUR POSITION IN LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION IF IT WERE SENT? IF IT WERE NOT SENT, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO ASK WHY NOT.

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THE GENERAL QUESTION FOR YOU.

Q. WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT IS THERE

ANY FOLLOW-UP ON WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HE SAID THAT THIS IS A POSITION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS?

A. I WOULD JUST REFER YOU TO THE TEXT OF THE LETTER WHICH THE SECRETARY WROTE TO SENATOR JAVITS THAT SPELLS OUT IN SOME DETAIL OUR POSITION ON THIS QUESTION, AND SEE IF THAT DOESN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

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Q. WHERE IS THAT LETTER?

A. IT IS IN THE PRESS OFFICE.

Q. CAN WE HAVE COPIES? ARE COPIES AVAILABLE?

A. YES.

Q. ALL RIGHT, I'LL LOOK AT THAT.

Q. GOING BACK TO THE SUDANESE ARMS, ISN'T THAT A MATTER THAT COULD WELL HAVE WAITED FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE A DECISION ON IN LIGHT OF THE STATEMENT THAT HE SAID HE WOULDN'T WANT TO IMPAIR THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION?

A. PEOPLE, I SUPPOSE, ARE OBVIOUSLY ENTITLED TO THEIR OPINION, AS YOU ARE AND IMPLIED IN YOUR QUESTION. THE FACT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT REMAINS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES UNTIL JANUARY 20, AND HE DECIDED IT WAS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO MAKE THIS DETERMINATION, AT THIS TIME. ANY TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE MADE UNDER THIS DETERMINATION ARE SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION THAT IS INDICATED IN THE LAW.

Q. WERE THERE ANY DEADLINES, OR WAS THERE ANY PRESSURE INVOLVED IN MAKING THE DECISION AT THIS TIME?

A. I CANNOT ANSWER WHY --

Q. YOU JUST SAID HE OBVIOUSLY MADE THE DECISION AND THE DETERMINATION THAT IT WAS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, AT THIS TIME. I DON'T THINK IT IS ALL THAT OBVIOUS.

A. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO HIM.

Q. CAN YOU LAY OUT FOR US THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT HE DETERMINED WAS AT STAKE NOW?

A. IN GENERAL, THIS DETERMINATION FOLLOWS THE RESTORATION OF U.S.-SUDANESE RELATIONS TO A NORMAL LEVEL.

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YOU WILL RECALL THAT AFTER THE TERRORISTS MURDERED OUR AMBASSADOR IN KHARTOU, CLEO NOEL, AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, CURT MOORE, OUR AMBASSADOR WAS RECALLED -- OUR AMBASSADOR WAS RECALLED IN JUNE OF 74 I THINK, AFTER THE MURDERERS WERE RELEASED TO DETENTION IN EGYPT, WHERE THEY REMAIN. HOWEVER, OUR RELATIONS HAVE GRADUALLY IMPROVED SINCE THAT TIME. THE SUDANESE WERE VERY INSTRUMENTAL AND VERY COOPERATIVE IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED IN ETHIOPIA. AS I RECALL, I THINK THERE WERE FIVE RELEASED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. AND THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN, MR. NUMEIRI, VISITED PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON. SUDAN, OF COURSE, IS THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN AFRICA. IT IS LOCATED IN A REGION OF STRATEGIC INTEREST, AND IT HAS PLAYED A POSITIVE REGIONAL ROLE, BOTH AS AN ARAB AND AS AN AFRICAN STATE. AND I THINK THESE WERE SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WENT INTO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

Q. IT GOES BACK TO DICK'S QUESTION THEN ABOUT WHAT -- THIS IS ALL VERY NICE, BUT WHAT WERE THE PRESSURES THAT MADE IT HAPPEN NOW, WITH CONGRESS OUT AND NOT ABLE TO OPERATE, THIRTY DAYS ALLOWED, AND THAT SORT OF THING, WHY DID THESE THINGS COME TO A HEAD AT THIS MOMENT REQUIRING THIS EXECUTIVE ACT?

A. I DO NOT THINK IT WAS A QUESTION OF PRESSURE. IT WAS A QUESTION THAT THE PRESIDENT THOUGHT, FOR ALL OF THE REASONS I JUST STATED, THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR HIM

TO MAKE THIS DECISION AT THIS TIME.

Q. THE DECISION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS ONLY TO SAY THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ARMS.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. THERE'S NO LIST OR ANYTHING SO FAR ANNOUNCED, IS THERE?

A. THAT WHOLE QUESTION IS UNDER DISCUSSION. AND WHEN
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IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED, AS I INDICATED EARLIER, WE WILL SUBMIT THE INFORMATION TO THE CONGRESS.

Q. THERE ARE PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT A FAIRLY COMPLETE LIST OF A BEGINNING OF AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. ARE

YOU SAYING THAT THAT IS PREMATURE?

A. NO, I DO NOT THINK I WOULD SAY THAT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS DETERMINATION IS TO PERMIT THE SUDAN TO BE ELIGIBLE, AND NOW ANY INTEREST IT HAS IN MAKING PURCHASES WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AND THEN --

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AT LEAST WITHIN THIS GOVERNMENT OF WHAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO THE SUDAN?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT FOR A FACT, BUT I ASSUME THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. DOES CONGRESS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REJECT THIS DETERMINATION?

A. NO. THAT IS WRITTEN INTO THE LAW.

Q. CAN YOU SPEAK TO ANOTHER ARMS QUESTION; THAT IS, THE SALE OF A-7'S TO PAKISTAN? DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE PAKISTANIS WILL NOT BUY THE REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE; OR HAVE WE CHANGED OUR POLICY AND WILL SELL THE A-7'S REGARDLESS?

A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT PAKISTAN IS INTERESTED AND HAS MADE A REQUEST TO PURCHASE THIS AIRCRAFT. AND THEIR REQUEST IS UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WHOLE SECURITY SITUATION IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

NOW AS TO THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE, DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT ARE CONTINUING. I DO NOT HAVE MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

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Q. DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CONTINUE?

Q. I CAN REMEMBER THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID -- WELL, THREATENED PAKISTAN NOT TO DELIVER ANY WEAPONS DURING THE SUMMER.

A. FRENCH JOURNALISTS USED THE VERB "THREATEN." THE SECRETARY NEVER DID.

Q. WELL, WARNED PAKISTAN IT WOULD NOT GET ANY U.S. WEAPONS IF THEY WENT UNDER THE DEAL WITH THE FRENCH. SO NOW WE LEARN THAT A-7'S ARE GOING TO GO TO PAKISTAN -- OR PROBABLY. SO THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A CONNECTION BETWEEN BOTH.

A. NO, I DO NOT THINK THERE IS.

Q. NOW WAIT. SERIOUSLY, DOES YOUR GUIDANCE TELL YOU THAT THE ONLY QUESTION ON THE A-7'S IS THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD? THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING? THAT'S A MAJOR SHIFT IN POLICY.

A. NO, THERE IS NO MAJOR SHIFT IN POLICY. I THINK IF YOU GO BACK TO THE RECORD YOU WILL SEE THERE IS NO --

Q. THE SECRETARY OF STATE TOLD EVERY REPORTER ON HIS AIRPLANE GOING TO PAKISTAN THAT THERE COULD NOT BE ANY SALE OF A-7'S TO PAKISTAN AS LONG AS PAKISTAN WAS GOING TO BUY THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. THAT HAS BEEN THE POLICY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION. HAS THAT POLICY BEEN CHANGED?

A. NO.

Q. THAT POLICY HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED?

A. NO.

Q. SO THE LINKAGE STILL EXISTS BETWEEN THE PAKISTANI REACTOR ACQUISITION AND ITS DESIRE TO BUY A-7'S AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

A. SINCE THE TIME THIS ISSUE CAME UP WE HAVE SAID THAT

THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE, AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED IN PAKISTAN AND IN FRANCE AT THAT TIME AND SUBSEQUENTLY, WAS A MATTER THAT WE WERE DISCUSSING WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND WE WERE LOOKING FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION. AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, I THINK THE SECRETARY RECONFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN BEING RESPONSIVE TO THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF PAKISTAN.

Q. IN DEAUVILLE THE SECRETARY PUBLICLY AGREED TO THE STORIES THAT HAD BEEN WRITTEN THAT LINKED DEFINITELY THE SALE OR THE ACQUISITION BY PAKISTAN OF THAT REACTOR AS A CONDITION TO THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN A-7'S. DOES THAT STILL STAND AS AMERICAN POLICY? THIS IS ESSENTIALLY BERNIE'S QUESTION AGAIN.

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO SHIFT FROM WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF FRANCE IS RECONSIDERING ITS COMMITMENT

TO SELL THE REPROCESSING PLANT?

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK FRANCE.

Q. HOW ABOUT PAKISTAN RECONSIDERING BUYING IT?

A. WAIT.

Q. IN RESPONSE TO JERRY'S QUESTION, HE ASKED ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS TO CONSIDER IT, AND YOU ANSWERED PROPERLY, I BELIEVE, NO. BUT THE QUESTION OF THE SALE OF ARMS TO SUDAN WHEN THAT COMES UP, WHEN THE LIST IS PREPARED, THAT HAS TO BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS PROVIDED IT'S WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE (INAUDIBLE)?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

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Q. DO YOU KNOW IF PAKISTAN IS RECONSIDERING BUYING?

A. NO, I DO NOT.

Q. NOW, YOU HAVE ANSWERED NO TO BOTH SIDES OF THIS. YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT FRANCE AND YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT PAKISTAN. THERE IS SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T FIT IN HERE.

A. THIS IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THIS IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE

PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT THINKS, GO TO THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THINKS, GO TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Q. THIS IS A GOOD SUGGESTION. IN THE MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE POINT STILL EXISTS THAT IF THERE IS A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO AND IF WE ARE PLANNING TO SELL A-7'S AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FRENCH AND THE PAKISTANIS ARE GOING HOW DOES IT ALL FIT. YOU'VE GOT A TRIANGLE THAT DOESN'T WORK THERE.

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE SAID.

Q. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO GEOMETRY SCHOOL INSTEAD OF THE FRENCH AND PAKISTANIS.

Q. COULD YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THERE IS ANY TIE-IN BETWEEN THE AMERICAN STANCE ON THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT AT THE UN AND THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE SUDAN?

A. I AM REASONABLY CONFIDENT TO SAY THERE IS NO

CONNECTION.

Q. THERE IS NO CONNECTION?

A. THERE IS NO CONNECTION.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT
PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE
NOVEMBER 17 PRESS BRIEFING:
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Q. HAS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO REPORTED ON THE ASSERTION BY PRESIDENT SADAT WHICH APPEARED IN THE PRESS HERE ON MONDAY THAT THE U.S. IS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE WEAPONS TO EGYPT? IS THERE ANY STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT?

A. WE HAVE SEEN ONLY THE PRESS REPORTS. WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD FOR SOME TIME THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WANTS TO DIVERSIFY THE SOURCES OF HIS MILITARY EQUIPMENT. AS YOU KNOW, SECRETARY KISSINGER ON APRIL 2, 1976 TOLD THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERING ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR MILITARY SALES FROM EGYPT IN 1976. BEYOND THIS, WE HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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